

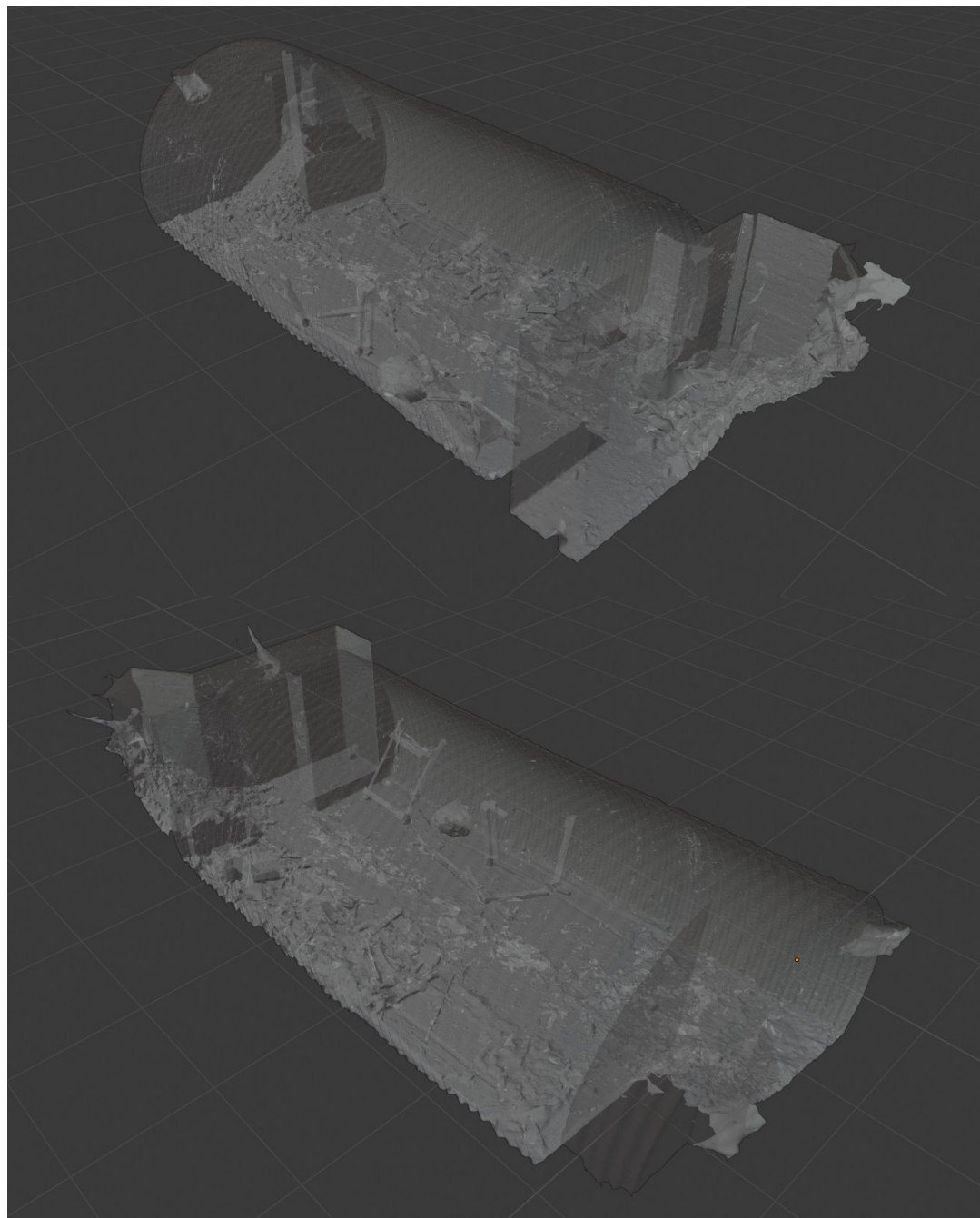
Location of the Craigiels Auxiliary Unit bunker.

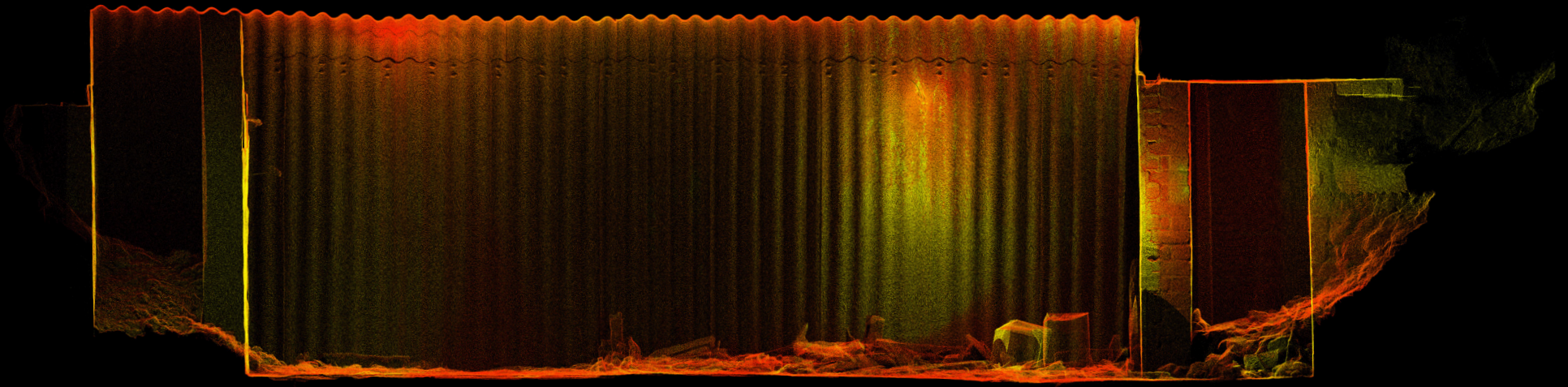
Craigielslands Auxiliary Unit

In 2019 the location of a Second World War auxiliary bunker was discovered during deforestation works by Forestry and Land Scotland in Craigielslands Wood, near Beattock. The bunker is of a type built during WWII as operational bases for auxiliary units tasked with sabotage operations in the event of invasion. Bunkers of this type are rediscovered infrequently, since their precise locations were kept secret, and most have since been buried and lost.

The Craigielslands bunker was built to a standard design, accessed via a narrow passage from the east which led to an access hatch; a second escape hatch, to the west, is now infilled. The main bunker space is formed by rivetted corrugated iron sheets over a cement floor, aligned east-west and forming a chamber 7 m by 3 m. The ends of the unit are brick-built with poured cement roof caps, both with a 'blast wall' forming a division from the main bunker space, designed as protection against grenades. At each end of the structure there is a ventilation pipe 32 cm in diameter. Little evidence of the internal furnishings survives, though broken timbers on the floor of the unit may be the remains of the original timber bed frames. The bunker is buried c.1.3 m beneath the current ground surface at its deepest point; the terrain sloping to the east means that this depth reduces to c.0.7m at the entrance.

The structure was surveyed in November 2019 using a Trimble TX5 laser scanner, controlled using spherical targets registered to the Ordnance Survey national grid.

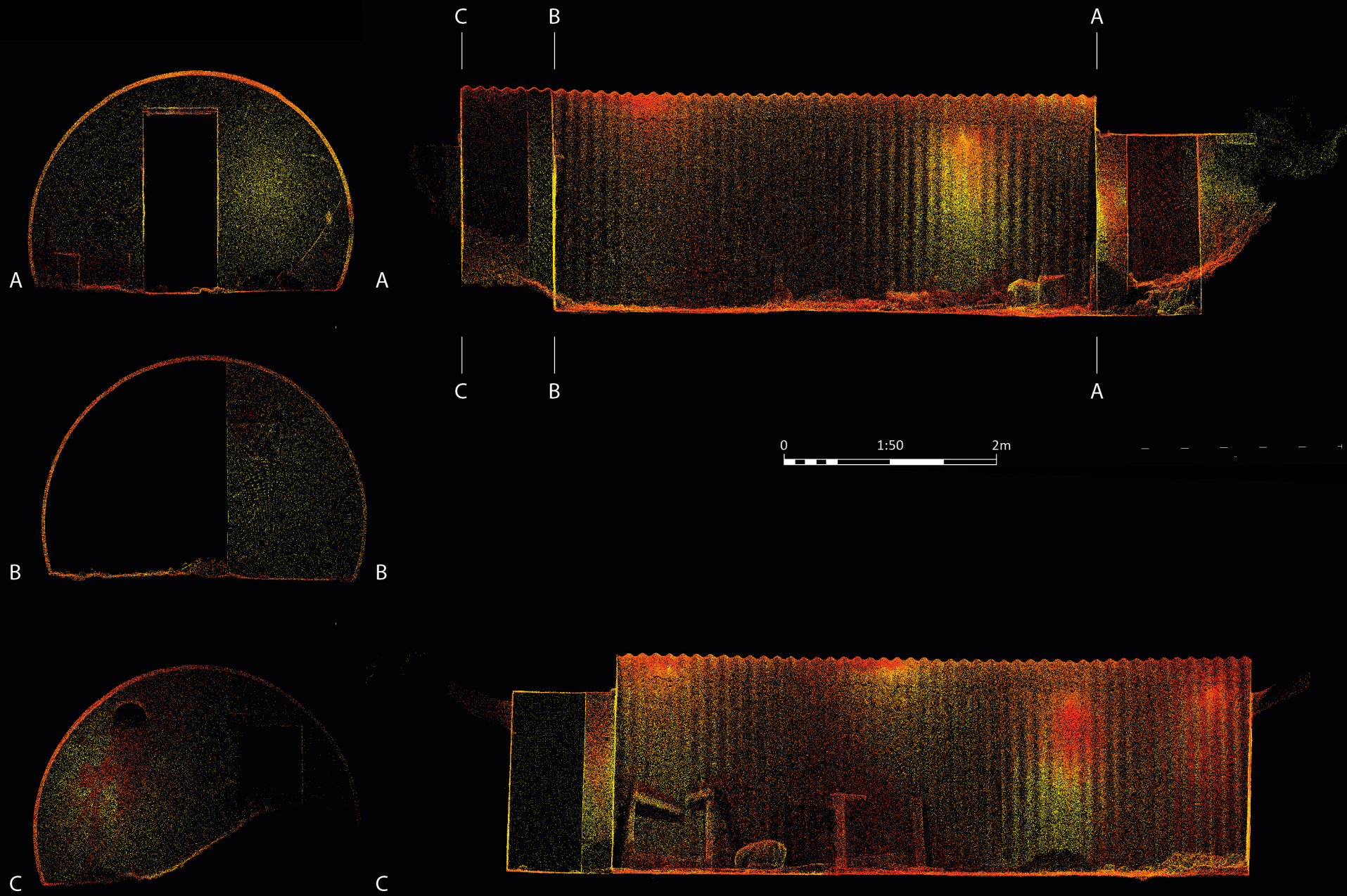




South-facing elevation of the bunker based on 3D point cloud data.

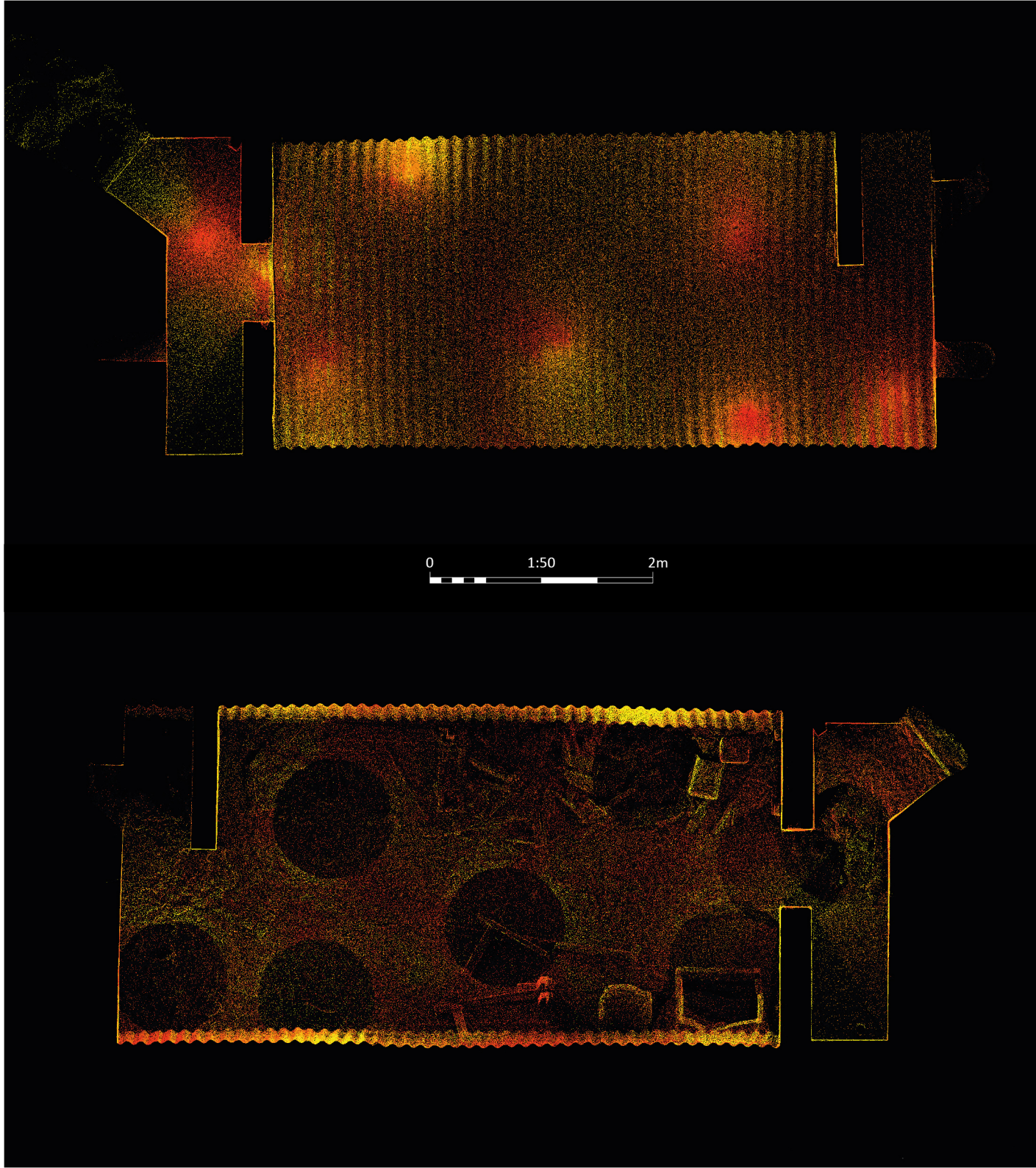


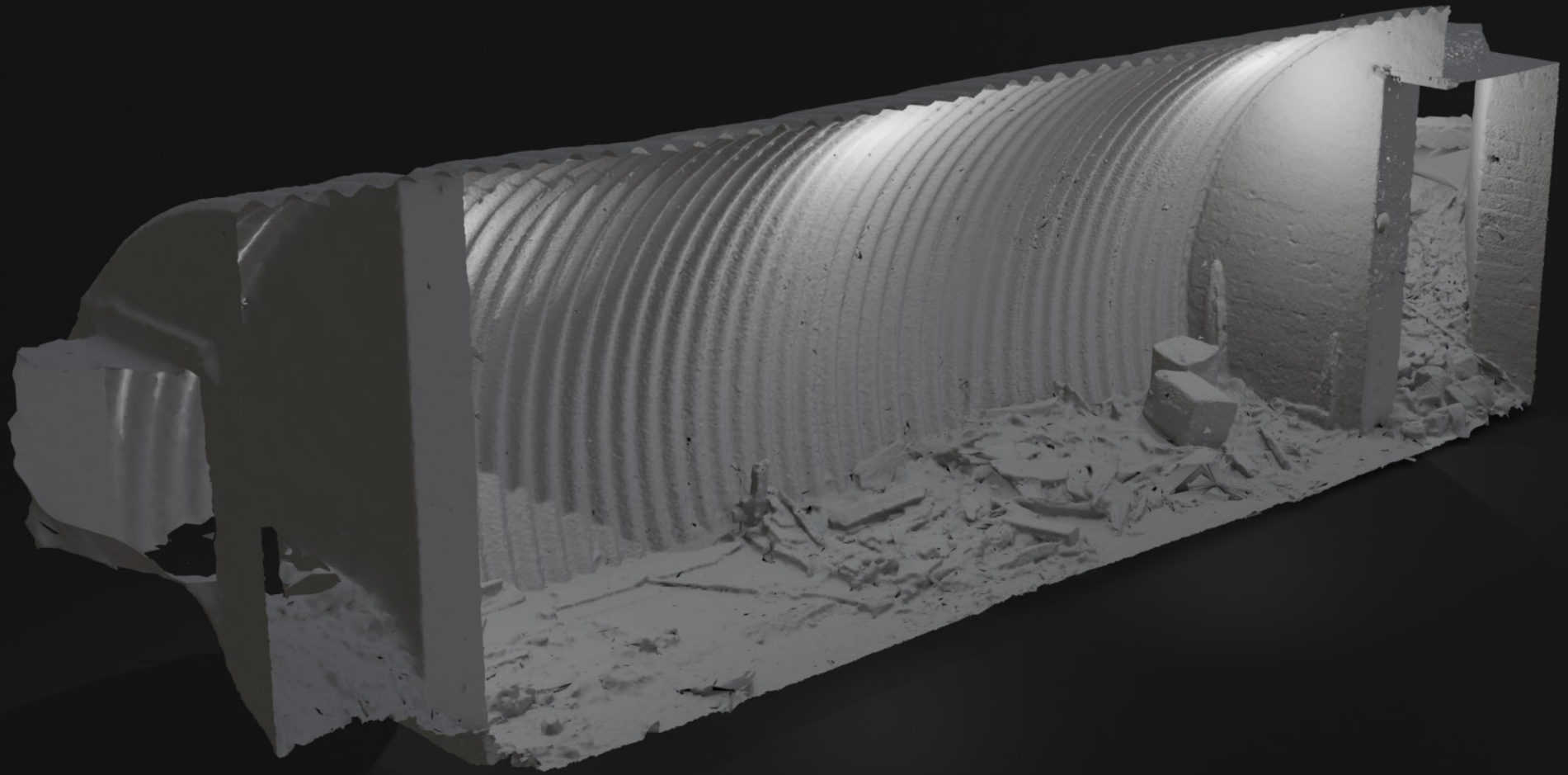
North-facing elevation of the bunker based on 3D point cloud data.



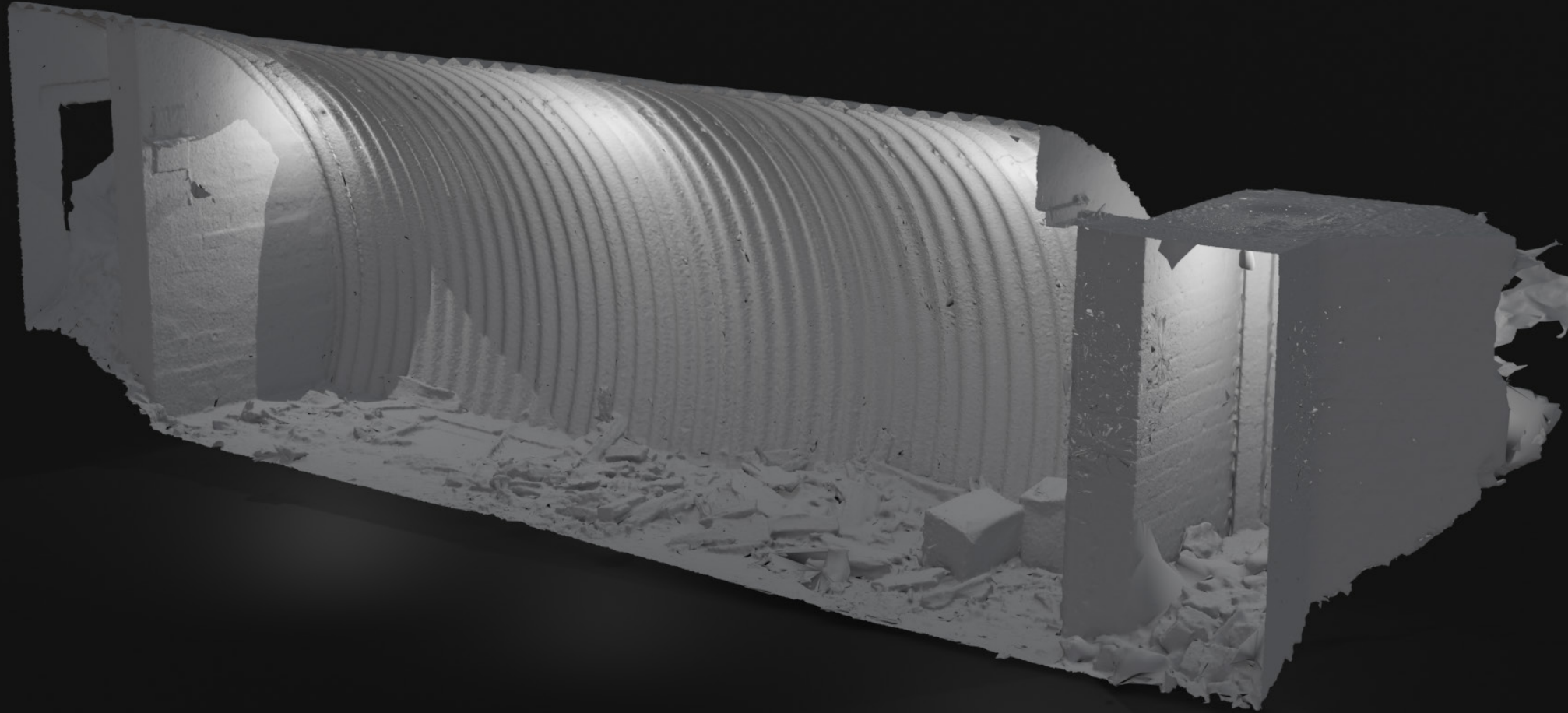
Elevations of the bunker based on 3D point cloud data.

Orthographic views of the bunker reflected ceiling plan (above) and floor plan (below) based on 3D point cloud data.

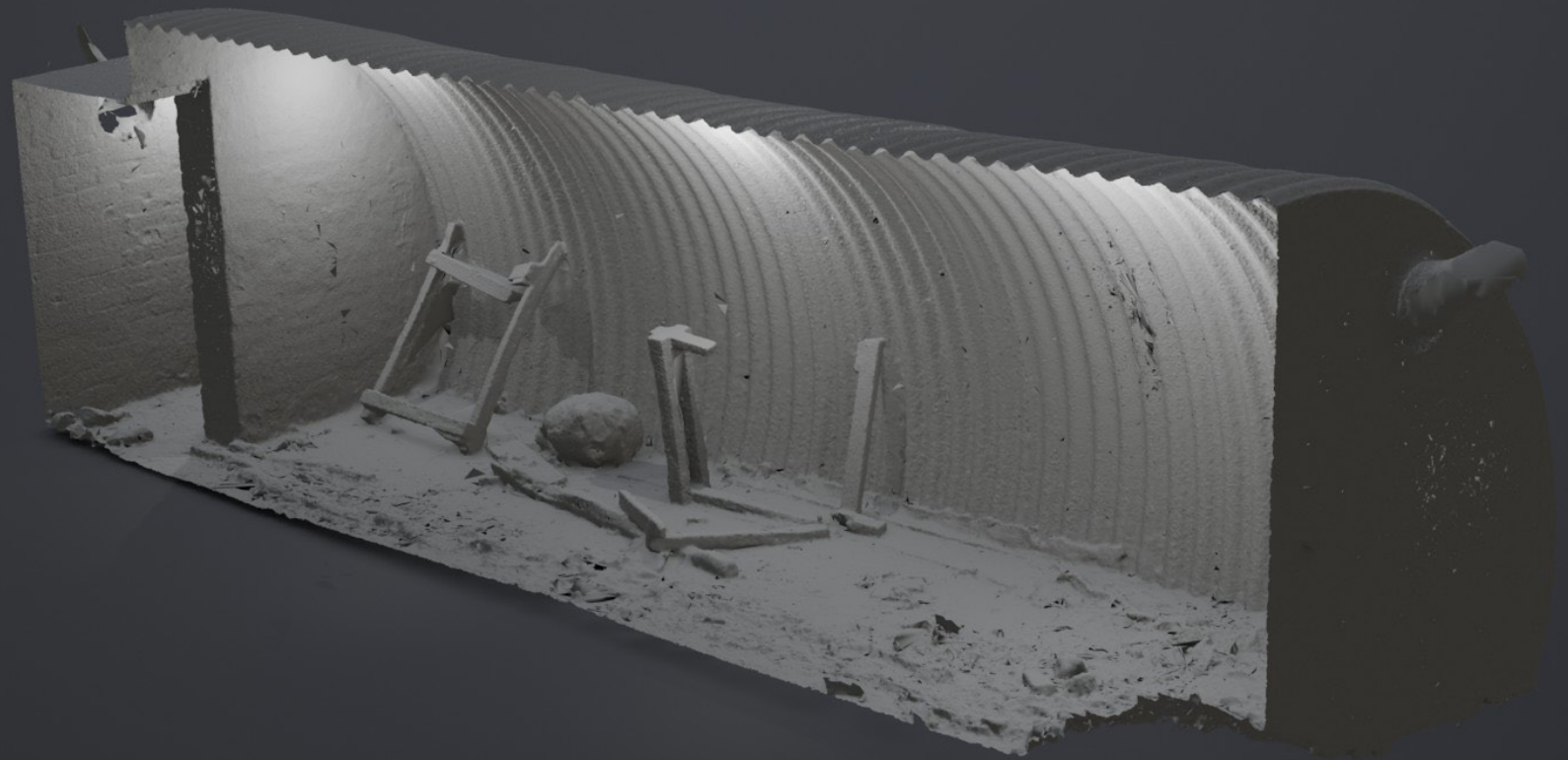




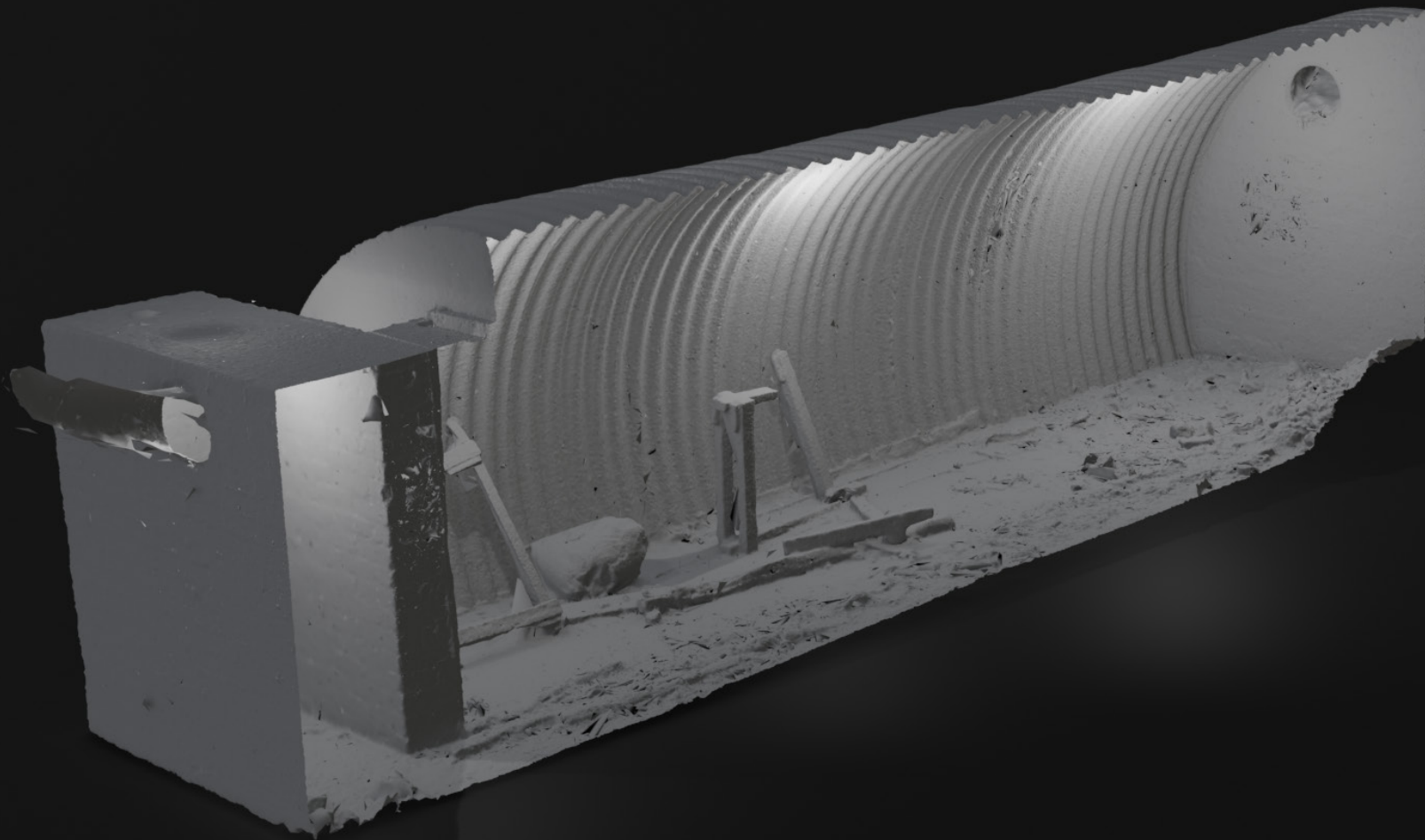
South-facing elevation of the bunker, 3D geometric mesh, from SW.



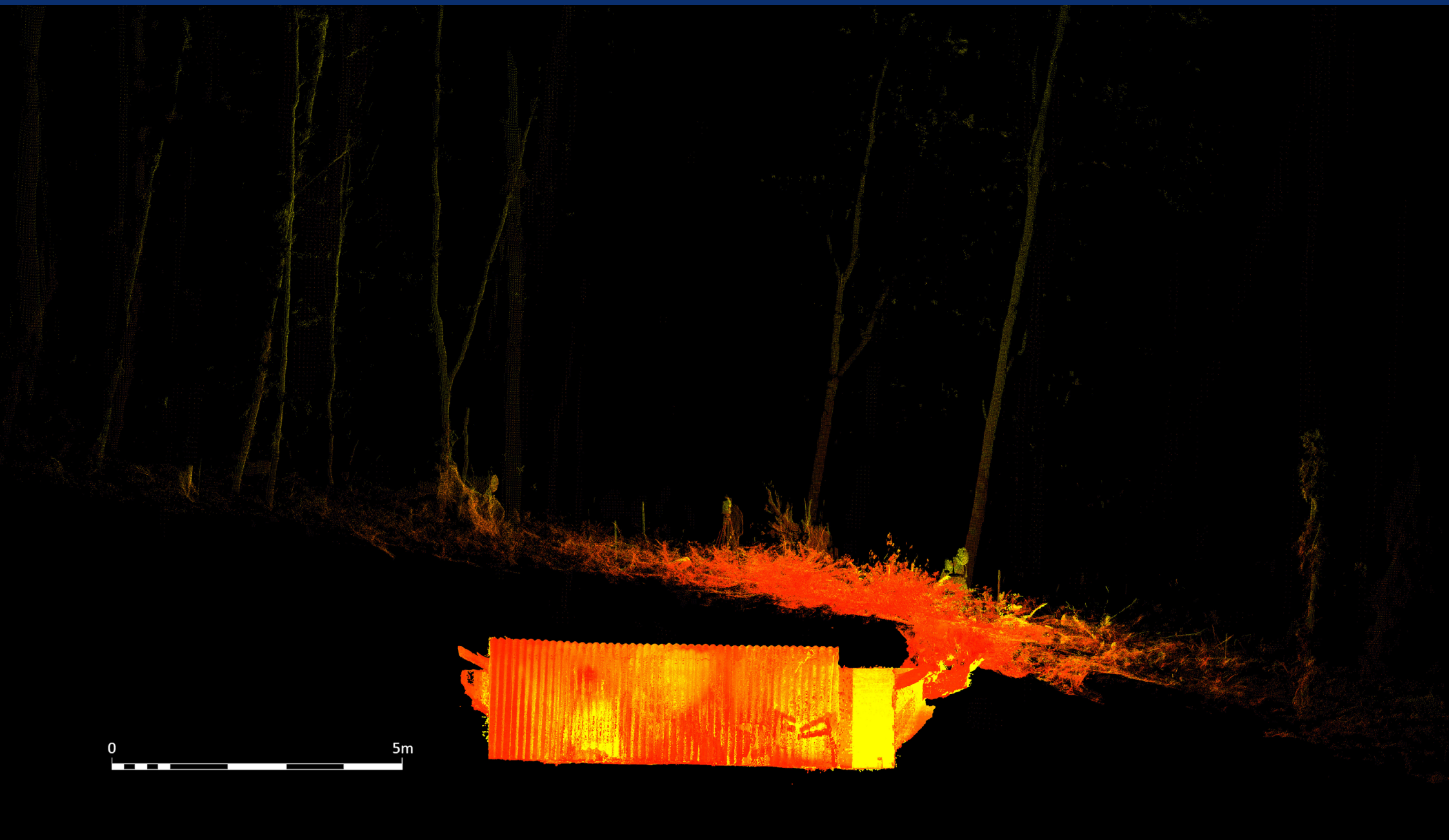
South-facing elevation of the bunker, 3D geometric mesh, from SE.



North-facing elevation of the bunker, 3D geometric mesh, from NW.



North-facing elevation of the bunker, 3D geometric mesh, from NE.



Orthoimage of 3D point cloud data showing the bunker below ground.



3D view of the bunker interior based on solid mesh data.



3D view of the bunker interior based on solid mesh data.



Top left: bunker interior showing W blast wall; *top right:* debris on the floor of the bunker close to the E blast wall; *bottom right:* possible remains of timber bed frame, close to E blast wall; *bottom left:* view of the entrance and E blast wall.

Top (L-R): view of the W escape exit; detail of iron fittings on the W blast wall; detail of the W ventilation flue.

Bottom (L-R): detail of possible bed frame remains; aumbry off the E entrance passage; tin can located in the aumbry.



Survey & Illustration by: G.Cavers

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